

Crossing

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A Roxbury Community College Publication

Summer 2000

From the Desk of the President Dr. Grace C. Brown

Dear Colleagues:

I am delighted to reintroduce the college's publication, the *Crossing*. The newest edition of the *Crossing* comes at a time when the College is celebrating its many achievements.

The goal of the *Crossing* is to magnify communications about college life, its hopes and dreams. Appearances in the *Crossing* will include not only the main campus and our Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, but also all off campus sites and the Foundation.

The news that will be published in this section will include statewide issues, such as the gubernatorial signing of the new contract between the Board and the faculty union, and it will include new programs, such as the Licensed Practical Nursing certificate. We will include exclusive information about good news in the system and share information on new hires, such as the new Provost, Dr. Janis Jones.

We will be delighted to report from time to time on others in the college family, information about our retirees and our consultants and contractors.

Beginning this academic year, the College will have two new vendors—Paige Academy for the childcare center and the National Security Company to keep our campuses consumer-friendly, safe and sound.

While graduation exercises were superb and the speaker Dr. Charles Ogletree just outstanding, it was the three valedictorians that marked this commencement as the most memorable.

This commencement was a first in many ways. All the graduates completed all degree requirements; there were no walkers.



Dr. Grace C. Brown

RCC Grads Challenged to Keep the Dream Alive As They Enter New Millennium

Keep the dream alive," said Harvard University Law School Professor Charles Ogletree Jr., at the 25th commencement ceremony. "Remember those who made it possible for you to be here today."

Following Dr. Grace C. Brown's comment that the student body was comprised of 67% women, he asked, "Where are the men?"

RCC isn't the only school with a high percentage of women. "Men aren't here ...because our system has turned against black men."

Where Are the Men?

"There are more black men in jails and prisons than in college, because America has decided the war against drugs is a war on the black community," he continued.

RCC graduates need to take their education and training back into the community and to make sure schools and systems work for children and work effectively.

"To keep the dream alive, we must make sure the doors of education remain open to African Americans."

He told them most graduates don't remember or know of the history of blacks. Although there is no monument in recognition of the millions who helped build this country, we need to remember our history and keep the dream alive.

"The system has problems and it is the challenge of the class of 2000 to answer those problems. There is hope. There is opportunity," said Ogletree.



Charles Ogletree Jr. reminds graduates that they didn't achieve this goal alone.

He gave the graduates a challenge: Be leaders, talk about new paradigms, talk outside the box, and make sure no idea is ignored.

"Don't think or imagine you made it all on your own. Never forget the shoulders you stand on."

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Provost's Corner

News & Notes

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NFEASC) informed RCC's president, Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown, that the fifth year interim report submitted by Roxbury Community College has been accepted. The Commission commended RCC for efforts in transforming several areas of the College.

RCC is the recipient of a **\$300,000 grant** from the Department of Health & Human Services, National Institute of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Division of Minority Opportunities in Research.

The Bridges to Baccalaureate grant funds the ATOMS program, which is designed to promote advance training of minorities in science and math. The long-term goal of the program is to increase the number of students who enter a BS program at RCC and transfer to a four-year institution, specifically Northeastern University.

Student eligibility is based on completion of chemistry, biology and math courses, with a minimum GPA of 3.5.

RCC received approval from both the Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Nursing for an **License Practical Nurse (LPN)** program. The LPN day program will begin in fall 2000. Day and evening programs will begin in fall 2001

Crossing

Crossing is the newsletter of Roxbury Community College. It is published for the staff, employees, alumni, students, supporters and friends of RCC. Send inquiries and correspondence to RCC, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120-3400. 617-541-5330 (office). 617-541-5365 (fax). Attention: Dr. Nadine Dowling, Administrative Bldg.

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RCC on the Move

Dr. Janis W. Jones, the Associate Dean of Academic Support Services and Faculty Development at Borough of Manhattan Community College, in New York City, is joining the administration at RCC as Provost. Jones has an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration and an MA in Linguistics from Nova/Southeastern University.

RCC Men's Basketball coach, Malcolm Wynn, was selected as the National Junior College Division III Coach of the Year.

As part of the Boston Marathon, the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center hosted the Adidas Training for Sports Program. Over 11,000 individuals attended.

The Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center Director, Keith McDermott, was recently elected to the National Governor's Committee on Sports and Physical Fitness Board of Directors.

On April 12 the Celtics recognized RCC's basketball team for achieving the title of National Junior College Division III. On May 5, the Boston Red Sox recognized the team during their pre-game ceremony.

Campus Success

Gillian Van Delft

"Never forget where you came from and don't forget to give back to your community," said Gillian Van Delft, a 1997 RCC graduate provided the alumni charge at RCC's Commencement.

In order for RCC to keep giving to the community, alumni must give back, she said. She asked graduates to give back by tutoring, mentoring, or teaching.

Van Delft, who was born in New York City, didn't have an easy road to her success. She was kept back four times. Although she was able to talk herself out of one of these, she repeated three grades twice.

After being expelled from the Boston school system, she got her GED and attended UMass/Boston. She flunked out.

At this point in her life, her self-esteem was low and her

confidence nonexistent. Yet, she decided to attend RCC. She did well—her GPA put her on the President's list and she was class president.

Van Delft graduated from Wellesley College in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She graduated this July from Boston College with a Masters in Education in Elementary Education.

She told her story not to toot her horn, but to inspire others. She works with AIDS victims, provides HIV prevention education and supports children. Telling her story was another way of giving back.

"Your degree is proof that your hard work and determination paid off." Qualities that enable people to achieve—to do and be anything they want, she said.

"You can do it. You are the bomb."

Ogletree: Keep the Dream Alive

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He concluded by asking them not to forget the dream or keep the dream as their own. "To save the dream for one, it must be saved for all. Class of 2000, I commend you and challenge you to save the dream for all."

The 25th commencement ceremony began with Dr. Judith Gill, Acting Chancellor of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, providing the graduation charge to the college.

"It has been seven years since a chancellor has been present at RCC's commencement," said President Brown.

"To save the dream for one, it must be saved for all...Class of 2000, save the dream for all."

Charles Ogletree

Prior to recognizing several guests, Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown provided attendees with several key facts about the college and the Class of 2000.

Many First in 2000

President Brown pointed out that not only was this was the first year all students completed all requirements prior to commencement, but it was the first time there were three valedictorians—Jose Antonio Pino Brando, Ifeoma Mary Eche and Kelly Ryan.

Eche, speaking for all three valedictorians, reminded her classmates to take the knowledge they had acquired and prosper with it.

"We are expected to go out and let the world know, with hard work, determination and achievement of our goals that RCC is the best."

President Brown concluded the ceremony by acknowledging several members of the board, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Brown recognized Sharif Abdal-Khallaq, Chair of the Board of Trustees and a member of the second graduating class of RCC. He was recognized for his service to the College and to the community.



One of three valedictorians, Kelly Ryan, greets faculty members after receiving her diploma.

upon their retirement. Eight employees were acknowledged for their 20 years of employment at RCC.

Dr. Brown thanked many people, including the graduation committee. She also asked for a moment of silence in memory of many

people, places, and several events that took place over the year.

The graduation festivities concluded with a reception for all attendees in the Administrative Building..



Gates Millennium Scholars Stacy Alfred and Julie Cabral (Outstanding Female) express joy upon graduating.

Dr. Brown wished Professors Tom Reeves, Marta Bolivar, Bruce Scott and Sewell Potter good luck

I'm Glad You Asked

Q What happens if I become seriously ill or am in an accident, and I have no more time available including the sick bank option? How will I pay my bills?

A As a state employee who works half time or more, you are eligible to apply for and receive long-term disability coverage with the state. This coverage will replace up to 50% of your regular pay on a tax-free basis to a maximum monthly benefit payment of \$10,000. This coverage begins after you have been totally disabled for 90 consecutive days.

If you do not enroll in the coverage when you began your employment with the Commonwealth, you will

need to complete a personal health statement that must be approved by Hartford Life Insurance before your coverage can begin. The cost of this coverage depends on your pay and your age.

The following rates are guaranteed through June 30, 2002.

| Age | Premium* |
|----------|----------|
| Under 40 | 0.23 |
| 40-44 | 0.46 |
| 45-49 | 0.68 |
| 50-54 | 1.08 |
| 55-59 | 1.44 |
| 60-64 | 1.08 |
| 65-69 | 0.48 |
| 70+ | 0.27 |

*Monthly premium per \$100 of monthly earnings.

For more information, call Gretchen Jones, on extension 5302, in the Office of Human Resources.

RCC Tigers Win National Junior College Championship

Roxbury Community College ended the 1999-2000 basketball season by capturing the National Junior College Men's Division III Basketball Championship. The win was the first time any college basketball team from Massachusetts has ever won a national championship.

The Tigers (33-3) defeated the College of DuPage (31-3) in the championship game, by taking an early lead that resulted in a 103-79 win. This was the fourth time the Tigers appeared in Delphi, New York for the tournament; it was the second appearance for the College of DuPage, Illinois.

Senior co-captains guard Bilal Abdullah and center Tramaine Skeens were selected for the All-Tournament team.



RCC wins National Junior College Division III Men's Basketball Championship—a first for any Massachusetts college team..

Abdullah, an East Boston High graduate, led the team in scoring with 29 points. Skeens, with 14 points and 11 rebounds, was named Most Valuable Player.

"We have some incredible guys. The guys believe in themselves," said Head Coach Malcolm Wynn, who was named National Coach of the Year.

Wynn wanted to make his first trip to the finals a winning one. "This feels great. It's incredible. Very few people have the chance to do this. I have to thank the guys. They made it happen."

Jeffrey Hannibal was given special recognition for his work with the team as the athletic academic advisor.

The Tigers first beat the country's number one ranked college Gloucester County College (61-55) to make it to the finals. Gloucester has been to Delphi five times and won the 1994 national championship.

Seniors Move On

The team's success is due in part to the administration of Athletic Director and Olympian John Thomas for his tireless work and inspiration to the RCC community.

Many of the seniors are being recruited by four-year colleges and universities.

As for next year, Wynn plans to win the Division III basketball championship again. "We will repeat. No question."

President

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The first graduating class of the 21st century had as the alumni speaker, Gillian Van Delft, who graduated in 1997. Van Delft is a graduate of Wellesley, class of 1999, and a graduate of Boston College. She is interested in beginning work on her doctorate. This former student represents the story, the mission and goal for all RCC graduates. (See page 2.)

Host to Many

This past year, Roxbury Community College hosted Lieutenant Governor Jane Swift, Senator Dianne Wilkerson, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education Steven Tocco, Representatives Marie St. Fleur, Gloria Fox, Shirley Owens-Hicks, and Kevin Fitzgerald.

We presented our circumstances historically and financially.

RCC Receives Grant

As a result, Representative Fox authored on the House side and Senator Wilkerson led the Senate to approve the \$2.5 technology grant to assist the college in development of a state-of-the-art library; an integrated SIS and FMS system and the ability to provide instructional and academic computing for our students.

NEASC reaffirmed RCC's decennial accreditation to 2005! RCC was commended for its progress in several areas.

The National League for Nursing, the Nursing Board and the Board of Higher

Education have given our programs high marks, and we continue to be proud of all of our student achievements.

Tucci and Roselli, independent auditors, indicate their findings show RCC as having an unqualified opinion.

We look forward with you to an exciting communication tool for the RCC family. Thanks and hats off to Dr. Nadine Dowling and Ajibola Osinubi, chief editors of the *Crossing*.

Grace Carolyn Brown
President

CALENDAR

The following is a list of Roxbury Community College and Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center events.

July 17-August 24
Summer Session II

Sept. 6 -Dec. 13
Fall 2000 Session

Dec. 9
3rd Annual Fund-raising Gala